

S E C R E T

OGC 79-06988
30 Jul 79

24 July 1979

MEMORANDUM FOR: []
Office of General Counsel

FROM: []
IMS/FOIA, Privacy and Litigation Group

SUBJECT: Tscherim Soobzokov - Justice Department
Investigation of Alleged Nazi War
Criminals

REFERENCE: OGC 79-06499, 16 July 1979

1. Reference transmitted a request from Mr. Joseph F. Lynch, Office of Special Investigations, Criminal Division, Department of Justice for information pertaining to subject. In response to that request, the following portions of Directorate of Operations' documents are attached herewith:

a. Biography of an Emigrant dated c. October 1959, pages 1 through 9 and pages 15 and 16

b. Interrogation report dated 23 February 1956, paragraphs 3, 4, 5 and 6.

2. Also attached is a copy of an Office of Security report dated 14 December 1959 concerning Mr. Soobzokov. This document must be coordinated with the Office of Security prior to making it available to Mr. Lynch.

3. Please remind Mr. Lynch that these documents, which are classified Secret, are for his background use only, may not be copied or used in any litigation without prior coordination with this office and must be returned to this office when his investigation is completed.

Attachments: a/s

DECLASSIFIED AND RELEASED BY
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
SOURCE METHODSEXEMPTION 302B
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
DATE 2007

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Subject: Tscherim Soobzokov - Justice Department Investigation
of Alleged Nazi War Criminals

Distribution

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S E C R E T

BIOGRAPHY OF AN AMERICAN

SOO-BISOKOF Tcherila Iuobich

1. My parents' background and my close relatives.

1) My father's name is SOO-BISOKOF Tu Namisovich. I do not know his exact birthdate but I suppose that it was somewhere between 1870-1873. Nationality - Circassian. Our family used to live always in the village (aul) Tcherila which is now the center of a rayon in the Antonovskiy oblasti of the RSFSR. My father was a farmer and owned about 50 acres of land. Tobacco and wheat were the main crops. Besides that, my father was raising cavalry horses. For the aul he maintained a small drove of horses, had 6-7 cows and few hundred heads of sheep. Hired help was used. According to Soviet standards my father belonged to the Kulak class and later on was as such dispossessed. My father had never a position in any kind of administration and was not prosecuted prior to the establishment of the Soviet government.

Up to 1930 the Soviet government confiscated cavalry horses from my father's farm. In 1930 the complete collectivization was put into effect. Rumors started spreading among the Circassians, that in the new kolkhozes all Circassians will have to sleep under one cover and in one building. The inhabitants of six big villages decided to go to the city of Krasnodar in order to deal with pitchforks and axes the collectivization. My father participated in this march. On the banks of the river Kuban they were stopped. The womenfolk was sent home, but the men arrested, among them my father. Some of the participants were let free after a very short time but my father was kept till 1931.

When my father returned from prison, our village (aul) had become a kolkhoz. The kolkhoz had taken over our land, our livestock, our barn which we used to process our tobacco crop, and two livestock barns which were destroyed and the lumber carried away. Only one cow was left for our family. However, our family could not become members of the kolkhoz. All this amounted to a plain act of robbery (razbitchivaniye). In 1933 we became members of the kolkhoz but only my father and mother were permitted to work there. The responsibility for the sowing and the growing of wheat belonged to three elderly men in our kolkhoz. One of them was my father. In 1936 they sowed the wheat by hand without using the proper machinery.

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For one reason or the other this year the wheat did not sprout. The three old men were accused as "wreckers" and arrested. My father was in prison till 1933. During this time only my mother and I belonged to the kolkhoz. 1933 my father returned from prison but had to work from now on as a regular kolkhoznik.

In 1943 the Soviets occupied again our village after the retreat of the Germans. A group of Soviet partisans were the first ones to enter our village. Among them was a Circassian PETRUSH Terruk. He arrested three elders, among them my father, and executed them near our barn, because they had allegedly helped the Germans. Actually, these elders had only collected money among the villagers in order to throw a big party for two German Generals who had visited our village. At that time I was not home and learned about father's execution only at a later date.

2) My mother Dedy Kurash was 6 to 7 years younger than my father. She was never apprehended. I lost contact with her after my evacuation with the retreating Germans, which happened around February 1943. Since then I never have heard anything from her. Much later some other Circassians told me that she has died in 1947.

3) My brothers and sisters:

Altogether I had six sisters and four brothers. 5 sisters and two brothers are dead. One sister died 1926-27 during a childbirth. The rest died 1921 during a cholera epidemic. Mother used to tell me how the cholera had finished up most of our family. All this has happened before my birth, therefore I do not know any details. Two of my deceased sisters left boys behind them. The son of one sister was called Mahmud and of another - Kaderbech. The latter was older than I.

4) The name of my alive brother is SOQETSOF, Mos; born December 12, 1906. He lived with the family till 1931. In this year my father returned from prison and my brother broke officially with his parents in order to obtain the confidence of the Soviet government. Our family belongings were not divided on this occasion because we did not have any. He went to Krasnodar and worked as a locksmith in a nail factory. 1932 he became a member of the Communist Party. 1935 he returned to our village and became chairman of our village kolkhoz. He lived separated from us and tried not to have any contact with us. 1936 he was sentenced to two years of hard labour for not having fulfilled the annual grain delivery quota of our kolkhoz as established by the contract. Actually my

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brother had delivered the requested amount of grain, but he had not sold the surplus of it to the government but had distributed it among the kolosniki, about 2.5 kilo roubles for each labour day. My brother was brought first to the prison of Krasnodar and after that to a labour colony for hard labour near the same city. 1937 was the year of the great purge, known to the name Jozhovshchina. Mass arrests started and my brother was transferred for interrogation from the colony into a prison belonging to the oblasti NKVD in Maikop. There was the following reason for it: An old emigrant, Kilich Girey who was living abroad had written a letter via Turkey to his relatives locating the following phrase "With God's help I shall return, and we will meet again". This letter became known to the chief of the oblasti NKVD Dolgoputov. He interpreted this sentence that way, that the emigrants are planning an overthrow of the Soviet regime and a return of all emigrants to their homeland. Mass arrest started at once. There was hardly a family who did not suffer great losses. All prisons were overflowing. My brother was being questioned too. The investigation continued up to 1938, till finally Dolgoputov himself was arrested as an "enemy of the people". Now some of the arrested were set free, among them was my brother. For some months he was unemployed. He asked the party to be reinstated but to no avail. Soon he became manager of our village store which belonged to the village soviet. 1938 he was arrested again because he had failed to report to the authorities the two embassies which had come and landed in the store. Under the criminal law paragraph 111 he was sentenced to 1 1/2 year prison for neglect of duties. 1939 he was released and got a job with a local construction outfit. 1941 he was arrested and investigated by the Krasnodar NKVD; what for -- I do not know.

Shortly before the war started he was released and returned to his old job, where he remained till the beginning of the war. From there on we were always together.

5) My sister Suret Ilepserishe was born in about 1921. She lived with us until about 1934/39, then she got married to a veterinary of our raion. In the beginning of the war he was called into the army as a captain - veterinary. Fall 1941 he came on furlough from Krasnodar to our village. Since then we lost contact with him. 1947 I learned from other Circassians who had some information from our village that my sister is still living there. I, personally, never tried to contact her.

I have no other close relatives in the Caucasus. After my evacuation by the Germans I neither received nor wrote letters to my village.

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MY PERSONAL HISTORY

My Childhood

I was born on April 11, 1921, in the village of () the rural center of the administrative district of (). I lived with my parents until 1932 or 1933. I attended the local school (one-class) and finished it in 1934. I continued in the second grade two years. In 1936 this school was changed into a 5-class school (one-class) and I graduated from the eighth grade. Spring 1939 having finished the eighth grade I became bookkeeper in the administration of our village. I had to register the workdays of each collective. I was paid 0.75 work days for each day I worked. I did not plan to finish high school, because I wanted to join the army; my uniform had impressed me very much. Beside that I knew that those village inhabitants had gotten better jobs than others after having served in the army.

The secretary of our village Soviet Iedil Koll was a remote relative of my mother. I begged him to change the date of my birth, so that I could be drafted in fall 1941. He obliged me and I went to be drafted. I was drafted on that I was arrested and thrown into jail. With two other guys who were about to be drafted we went to a restaurant, got drunk and insulted the waitress there with ugly words. Under the criminal law paragraph 74, we three were sentenced to one year prison for improper behavior (insulting). The first two weeks we were in a district prison in Minsk. Out of the imprisoned, including us, were then transferred to Minsk in order to build there a big military airport. There we worked till the war started.

My AMCL and Comrade

June 22, 1941 after having received the news about the outbreak of the war, we were assembled at 4 o'clock in the morning and marched off in an unknown direction. We marched two days without rest. In our march our group was split in two parts. In one group were all who had only short term sentences, in the other the political prisoners were gathered. The political prisoners were dispatched to the city of Minsk in order to be there before the war would end and to be drafted into the army as defenders of the great Patriotic War. When we started on this march we had very few jackets, at the end of the march even they had disappeared. We arrived at the camp located 4 kilometers from Minsk. There we were issued a document "Certificate of relative release" (svetitsya o osvobodivshisya), because they had been made up already.

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I arrived in this camp with the last group and when I asked for my certificate, it was missing. However, another one was made up at once and handed to me. Having all received the above mentioned certificates we were supposed to go to Sverdlovsk and present ourselves to a Drafting Board (Voennkomat) in order to be drafted. Instead of doing this I went home to the Caucasus. Two weeks after my arrival in the village my friend Gusev visited me. He had been sentenced to 5 or 6 years hard labour and had worked with me at the construction of the military airport in Sverdlovsk. He did not belong to the short term group and could not be released prematurely for this reason he could not get the certificate. So in order to receive it Gusev had used my name and had obtained my certificate. Now he was here as - a double of me. He asked me not to report him and he promised to go to Krasnoyarsk at once to get himself a passport under my name and after that not to return to our village. I agreed.

Served in a labour battalion

I stayed here until April 1941 and did not work anywhere. September/October 1941 our entire village youth, me and my brothers included were drafted into some labour battalions. We all were dispatched to a Cossack village Shukhaya near the river Kuban. We did not receive neither uniforms nor weapons. We had to dig there trenches. First we worked near the city of Taganrog close to Kostov. We were digging trenches and building fortifications. That way we were alternately working or retreating the whole winter. Spring 1942 we were already near Armavir. A rumor started spreading that we would be shipped to dig ditches in the Crimea. This I did not like. I went home and returned home. There I was hiding in the woods and came visiting my mother only at nights. This way I lived until the Germans arrived in August 1942.

My life under the Germans

August 1942 the Germans seized the Autonomous Krasnodarskiy Oblast and soon they established a new civil administration in our region. The Germans based their rule on the "Council of the Elders" because these supported them enthusiastically. Upon the recommendation of the "Council of the Elders" the Germans installed my future father-in-law as chief of our region. He was held in very high esteem by the Germans and they asked him even to move for this purpose from another district into ours. Under the Soviets he used to be chief of supplies in one of the local guard units protecting our watersupply. He never was a card carrying member of the party.

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Upon the recommendation of the "Council of the Elders" I was installed as head of our local militia. I was asked to appear before the "Council of the Elders" and there the Germans looked at me with significant consideration as such responsibility carried great responsibility. But I told him that I was born in 1918. After that the Germans gave me the position. Here I was subordinated to the Chief of the raion who was my future father-in-law.

My responsibilities were:

- a. To lead the fight against the Soviet partisans.
- b. To catch people who were maintaining contacts with the Soviet partisans.
- c. To prevent the flow of supplies to the Soviet partisans.
- d. To assist the Germans in requisitioning food and supplies from the population.
- e. To search houses for hidden Soviet uniforms. The Germans needed these uniforms very much.
- f. To maintain law and order in our village.

We caught altogether 8 Soviet partisans and turned them over to the Germans. Some Russian families kept on living in our village, they were mostly former employees of banks or finance institutions. There was always an inherited danger that these people might establish clandestine communications with the Soviet partisans. Therefore the local police force had to evacuate them. I held this position till January 1943.

My service in the German Army

End of January 1943 I voluntarily joined the German army and was sent to the 335th battalion, where soldiers were former PO. belonging to the different Caucasian nationalities. This battalion was holding defense position in the Coscah village Kaluzhinskaya of the Krasnodar kray. C.O. of the battalion was a German captain Krupanov. C.O. of the first company, to which I belonged was a Circassian from our village, Dzepsh Turuz (he is at the present time in Turkey, but is planning to emigrate to the U.S.A.).

Tuguz being present I told the battalion C.O. that I had finished the military academy in Ordzhonikidze, that I had served in the NKVD as a lieutenant and that I had gone AWOL. Tuguz knew that this was not the truth but he confirmed anyway what I had said and then upon his recommendation the battalion C.O. put me in charge of a platoon with the rank of a platoon commander. Our battalion was until February 1943 in Kaluzhinskaya. At this time the Soviets started their attacks along the entire front line and the Germans began to retreat. We had pitched

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battled around the village, around Arashodan and in some other places. We even participated in the defense of the Russian rear head. The defense could be maintained there till the end of 1941.

August 1943 I was wounded in my right shoulder and sent to a German military hospital in the town of Melitopol. There I remained till October/November 1943.

Released from the hospital I was sent to the Caucasian legion, which at that time was being assembled near Karsin. I belonged to this legion till January 1944. Then I was transferred to a battalion "Bergmann" which was holding defense positions near the city of Karsin. To this unit I went having German military travel orders.

My Participation in the Evacuation of People Belonging to the Nationalities of the Caucasus.

Having arrived in Odessa I had my papers checked with the local German commandant. This was necessary in order to obtain quarters for the night. Leaving his building I suddenly met there the German Lieutenant General von Foerster, whom I knew well since he had been once in my home village where he had been greeted with all due honours. I told him all about me and he asked me to come the next day to his headquarters. When I arrived there he explained to me the situation as follows: There are great masses of Circassian and Kabardin escapees in Odessa, around 3000 people. These people have come from the Caucasus and now want to go West but the Romanians are not permitting them to drive through their country unless they have German military leaders. For this a man from the Caucasus who speaks German and some Caucasian languages is necessary. Von Foerster put me then in charge of this people and charged accordingly my travel orders. This new job was to my liking and I agreed gladly. New travel orders were issued to me. Simultaneously orders to all German commandants in Romania were given ordering them to render me all the needed assistance to provide me and my group with food and quarters. When I joined this wagon train I met there many old friends, among them my brother, my future father-in-law and his daughter whom I married during the trip in 1944. This train had about 800 wagons.

February/March 1944 I led the wagon train through the town of Konstantzu and we reached Ploesti. April 1944 I got married to Goshnasho Dzhamirze who was travelling in our train. She is a Circassian, born 1926 in the village Pchegatlukay of the

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Ponezhskoyevskoye rayon of the Autonon Adygeyskoy oblasti.

My work as a recruiter for the Caucasian units of the German Army.

In Ploesht we received all of a sudden an order from the Germans to surrender our weapons and horses to the German army. This was a terrific blow to our entire group of escapees. I simply could not do this and therefore stepped down from my post. My brother had a certificate of health which stated that he was suffering from TB in a severe form. I claimed this certificate as mine and with its help obtained a travel order to a Caucasian Volunteer Unit near Berlin. The German commandant issued a travel order for me and five other people. I took with me my brother, my wife and three people from our native village.

June/July 1944 we all arrived in Berlin where I reported to a North Caucasian Committee which gave shelter to my travel companions. I myself went to the H.Q. of the Caucasian Volunteer Units and met there Major General Heidendorf. He is at the present time in Western Germany. He offered me the job of a recruiter for the Caucasian Volunteer Legion. All new recruited people had to be dispatched to a place near Warsaw. The recruitment was supposed to take place in the camps in Austria, Hungary and Czechoslovakia. Having received this order I gathered my group and August/September we arrived in Hungary. I was there busy for 1 1/2 months. I also was in Vienna and Graz but never went to the U.S.A. I was not able to recruit any body because by now it had become apparent that Germany was about to lose the war. 1944 I left Hungary and returned without being able to show any successes to Berlin. My group remained in Hungary. I reported to General Heidendorf who became highly indignant about my performance and ordered me to return to Berlin the following day. Which I never did. In the Committee for the North Caucasian I met Colonel Ulagay. He was a Circassian and colonel of the old Czar army. Later on he had become rather famous in Albania. Now he was a colonel of the SS and Division Commander of a North Caucasian Division which was in the process of assembling. His superior was a German Sturmartefuehrer (colonel) Teiermann. The latter promised to call up General Heidendorf and inform him that I had joined the SS. Heidendorf never bothered me anymore.

With the consent of Teiermann, Ulagay gave me the rank of "Ober-sturmfuhrer der Waffen-SS" and I was again supposed to recruit Caucasians, but now for this division. There were recruiters a plenty. Among them a Shakhmurov who is now in Turkey,

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and a Sedunokov who later was turned over to the Soviets. I was supposed to recruit again in Austria and Hungary.

Arriving in Austria I established my office in Marko-Kopuz. My helpers were my group - including my wife and three fellows, which, however, busied themselves mostly with black marketing. They carried cigarettes from Hungary into Austria. No recruitment took place because nobody wanted to volunteer. So we lived until March 1945.

The retreat of our groups into Austria.

March 1945 the German Army started her general retreat. I decided with my group to go to the Austrian city Villach where my father-in-law was living at that time. On our way there my wife gave birth to a baby. We stopped in the village Moudorf near Villach. There we learned that Glazay's SS Division had been transferred to Italy and was stationed near the town of Bolzeca. We decided not to join them, but to wait for the end of the war right there.

Our SS Div. and many other escapees moved now from Italy into Austria and got themselves quarters near Trauburg. End of April 1945 our group joined them, but my father-in-law remained in Villach.

Our flight to Italy

May 1945 Germany surrendered. Our camp in Ober Trauburg sheltered about 10,000 emigrants. Because this was the assembly point for the people from the North Caucasus. May 1 the first English motorcyclists appeared. Rumors started spreading that the English are going to turn over all Soviet citizens to the Soviets. To forestall this danger a committee was elected which had besides me the following members:

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The List of Falsifications in my biography which have been
used:

Everything I have said here so far is the unvarnished truth. There are no falsifications. However, up to now I used to tell some white lies in relating my biography. They are as follows:

1. 1940 I changed my birthdate with the help of the chairman of our village Soviet, a remote relative of mine and stated that I was born in 1921, in order to be drafted in the army 3 years ahead of time. Therefore I was called before the draftboard in 1940 and registered. But I was not drafted but arrested. I never have used this version of my biography any more.

2. In August 1942 during the German occupation the Germans made me chief of our village police according to a recommendation of our "Council of the Elders." But I could hold this position only after I had changed my birthdate and said that I was born in 1918.

3. January 1943 when I joined the Volunteer 835th Battalion of the German army I said wrongly, that I had finished the Military Academy in Makhovskaya and was a lieutenant in the 1st Battalion. I became an occupation platoon commander. Due to this change in my biography the German command held me in such a high esteem that it entrusted me always with positions of great responsibility. On the other hand having changed my biography I was able to secure me much better positions than I could have. Such a change in my biography could not be repeated any more but had to be developed further on.

4. I had to use the same story in filling out my application for entering the USA.

5. I had to tell this story to [redacted] of the American Consulate in Berlin, because I had used it in my documents and the new version was worse. I own thank my friends and co-patriots.

6. Living in the USA I had to use this same version even in my talks with this organization. I have used this version of my biography about four times but my story of being born in 1918 I used only when it was unavoidable. Arriving in [redacted] I was forced to tell the truth because I was afraid of [redacted] tation. I knew that I was acting dishonest but I consoled myself with the thought that I did not basically have any bad intentions and did not want to harm anybody.

When I was forced to tell the salary which I allegedly

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received as a lieutenant in the NKVD, I had not the slightest idea what it could have been, so I named it "NKVD". It turned out that this amount was about four times too much. The name of the commander of the 44th Division was Thelchenko and the name of the commander of 385 Regiment I got from a friend a Circassian [redacted] who actually served in these units. I myself, did not know the location of these units and in which battles they actually had participated. The names of the commander of the 1st Battalion [redacted] the name of the commander of the 3rd company [redacted] names which I happened to remember. Buzdriev was the chief of our raion NKVD division. He was a sworn enemy of our party and I never can forget his name. Savchenko was the secretary of the party raion committee. His name I cannot get either.

Why did I decide to drop those different stories?

I did not stop telling these stories and told the truth instead because I was pushed with my back against the wall and had gotten mixed up, but my conscience was bothering me. I had come to the conclusion that my present status is not determined by my rank of a lieutenant in the Soviet Army or my education but only by my personal abilities. Among the other participants on the courses there were people who never had been a lieutenant, but still were held in high esteem by the Americans. Besides that I reached the conclusion that the Americans are not going to deport me as long as they value me.

Written October 22, 1953

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3. Subject states that he never held membership in either the Komsomol nor the Communist party. He was rejected from membership in the Komsomol because his father was in the so-called "black" class and because his father's brother had defected to Turkey. Consequently, Subject states that he was blackballed whenever his name was brought up for consideration. For this reason, he feels that his initial application for the Air Force was rejected. Had it not been for the good services of a close friend, his father's, who interceded for him with Voroshilov's office-Defense Ministry, he would never have been appointed to the military academy.

After graduating from the Ordzhonikidze Military Academy in 1939, Subject was assigned to the 44th Inf. Division in Poland, which was then commanded by Major-Gen. Tlachenko. He was assigned to the 1st Battalion, 3rd Company of the 105th Inf. Regiment under the command of Capt. L. K. K. where he remained until 1941. Subject was granted leave in 1941 and in attempting to bring some cloth material for members of his family, was detained by the NKVD border guards for a period of 21 days before he was permitted to proceed home on leave. This incident apparently did not improve his morale. Following home leave, Subject was assigned to the 5th Inf. Div. 1153rd Regiment, which was then engaged by the German forces spearheading the drive between Taganrog and hostov. In March 1942, Subject's Division was pulled back for regrouping and to prepare new defensive lines where he remained until May 1942. His regiment was then ordered to move to an unknown destination - rumored to be Crimea. Subject, upon reaching a station called Kavkazai, decided to desert and subsequently made his way back to his native village in the Caucasus. He stayed in hiding until 12 August 1942, when the Germans took over the occupation of his village. Subject states that he came out of hiding then and gave himself up to the German Commander, whom he convinced that he was a deserter from the Soviet Army and that he was prepared to join the German forces in overthrowing the Communist regime. In August of 1942, Subject was elected by the inhabitants of his town as Chief of the Circassian Field Command for the Tortaradai area, while his older brother was chosen as Khayr for the town.

4. In November 1942, Subject joined the 235 North Caucasian Volunteer Battalion under German command, which fought against the Soviets at Kalushenshia. Subject appears to have participated in numerous reconnaissance patrol missions against the Soviet forces with considerable success. During the German retreat in February 1943, Subject was wounded in the right shoulder while on a reconnaissance mission to blow up a vital bridge to slow the advance of the Soviet forces. He was then sent to the Military

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Military Hospital in the Ukraine for treatment.

5. After recovering from his wound, Subject was sent by the Germans to the Hq. of the North Caucasian Legion, which was then located near Warsaw. Here he was appointed as a special representative to recruit German elements from German P.O.W. Camps, which were to be formed into volunteer units to fight against the Soviets. In March 1944, Subject was ordered by Lt.-Gen. Von Forester to lead 3,000 Caucasian and White Russian refugees from Odessa through Rumania to Baranov. Subject's only form of transportation for these refugees was by means of horse and cart. After bringing the refugees to the Rumanian-Hungarian border, they were turned over to the German authorities. Subject was next ordered to proceed to Athens, Greece to take over as Adjutant of the 836th Caucasian Battalion. His stay in Greece was short lived in view of the large scale Greek partisan rebellion against the Germans at the time. Subject states the high altitude climate hit him to bleed from the nose and mouth and after an 8 hour stay in Greece, he was sent back to the Hq. of the Caucasian Legion located near Warsaw. Warsaw was in a chaotic state of uprising at the time, so Subject proceeded on to Berlin.

6. In the early part of 1945, Subject joined the Caucasus SS Division, which was organized under Standartenführer Theodor and Standartenführer Ubayay, where he was appointed as their representative for the liberation and recruitment of Caucasian nationals from various P.O.W. camps and concentration camps to fight against the Soviets. After being properly documented as an SS officer, Subject established his headquarters in Bulka Kapazi, Hungary, where he was assigned camps in Austria and Hungary to carry out his work. After staying here until April 1945 and realizing that the German cause had collapsed, Subject proceeded with his wife to Oberdranburg, Austria, which was already occupied by the British. Upon arrival, Subject (dressed in an SS uniform) gave himself up to the British. His efforts to explain to the British that he was not a member of the German SS, served no useful purpose. He was incarcerated in a prison with German SS members and later shipped out of the area by truck, where he made his escape. He subsequently found shelter with an Austrian woman who gave him civilian clothes and after making his way back to his wife, he arranged to secure false documents through an Austrian and with 42 other Caucasian refugees, made his way to Barre, Italy in June 1945 by means of a large truck, which he managed to secure for the trip.

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